



Erika Anna (Bahe) Runnells was born on January 4, 1937, in Hannover, Lower Saxony, Germany. She returned to her Heavenly Father on July 30, 2025, in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Erika was the oldest of the three daughters of Hans Botho Bahe and Margareta Anna (Leyer) Bahe. She is survived by her husband Donald D. Runnells; two adult children, Suzanne Mulvany (Michael) and Timothy R. Runnells (Connie), sisters Ilona Stuart (William, deceased) and Silvia Schwemmer (Walter), five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Together with her parents and sisters, Erika survived the years of World War 2 in Germany. After the end of the war Erika finished her education, and in 1952 the family immigrated to the United States, eventually moving to Salt Lake City, Utah. None of the family members spoke or understood English, but they attended evening classes and studied the language prior to obtaining American citizenship. Erika ultimately obtained employment in the bookstore at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. It was there that she met her future husband, Don.

Erika and Don were married September 3, 1958, in a civil ceremony, which was solemnized on April 20, 1985, in the Salt Lake temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After their marriage the couple lived and worked in several states before settling down and raising their two children in Boulder, Colorado. During the years in Boulder Erika had a daycare business, sometimes with as many as eight toddlers and babies. Erika loved to sing and was a member of the Boulder Chorale. She enjoyed baking and preparing German food for her family and friends. Christmas was an especially busy and joyful time for Erika.

Erika was a life-long, faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She was proud of her service as a missionary in Salt Lake City. Over the years she served in numerous other callings for the Church, most of which involved children and music. She was an incredibly generous person, giving freely of her time and energy to bring happiness to other people. For several years after moving to Fort Collins she gave free voice lessons to friends and acquaintances. She had a deep love for her family, her pets, her music, America, and everyone's babies. Those of us who remain behind have lost an example of a kind and loving wife, mom, grandma, aunt, and friend.



IN LOVING MEMORY

*Erika Anna Runnells*

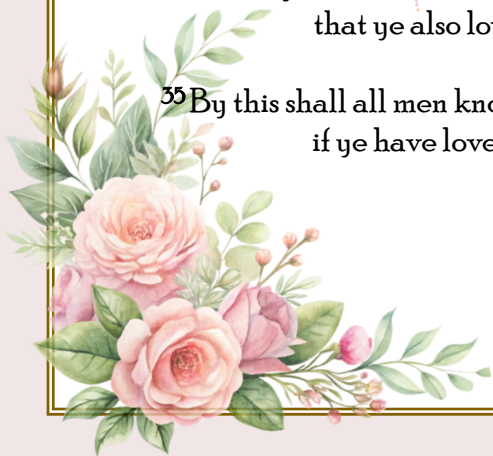
JANUARY 4, 1937 ~ JULY 30, 2025



*John 13:34-35*

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give unto you,  
That ye love one another; as I have loved you,  
that ye also love one another.

<sup>35</sup> By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,  
if ye have love one to another.



*Memorial Service for Erika*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 - 11:00 AM  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
808 E. ROOSEVELT AVENUE - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

*Presiding & Conducting: Bishop Merrill*  
*Pianist: Suzanne (Runnells) Mulvany*  
*Chorister: Cathryn (Rollins) Guzzwell*

Opening Hymn #1..... *"The Morning Breaks"*  
Opening Prayer ..... Billy Stuart  
Speaker ..... Ashley Runnells  
Vocal Duet..... Suzanne Mulvany & Cathryn Guzzwell  
*"The Sound of Music" & "Edelweiss"*  
Speaker ..... Michael Rollins  
*Video of Erika Runnells Vocal Recital*  
Speaker ..... Cathryn Guzzwell  
Speaker ..... Timothy Runnells  
Life Story of Erika Runnells..... Donald Runnells

**OPEN TIME FOR SHARING OF MEMORIES**

Remarks..... Bishop Merrill  
Closing Hymn #97..... *"Lead, Kindly Light"*  
Closing Prayer..... Cory Runnells

*Interment*

SALT LAKE CITY CEMETERY  
200 N STREET - SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Dedication of Grave ..... Stephen Rollins

**PALLBEARERS**

Billy Stuart • Michael Rollins • Alex Guzzwell  
Stephen Rollins • Cory Runnells • Tim Runnells

ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO A BUFFET LUNCHEON AT 2:00 PM  
CHUCK-A-RAMA - 744 EAST 400 SOUTH - SALT LAKE CITY